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Yesterday, 11:01 AM

City Council - All

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To the members of the Dover City Council,

My name is Jordan Schmolka, and I am a Dover resident. I write to you today in strong support of the adoption of a land acknowledgment statement, to be read before meetings of the City Council. I was thrilled when I first heard that the statement was under consideration—and deeply disappointed and troubled to learn that discussion of the resolution had been postponed.

I believe that a statement honoring Native peoples' millennia of stewardship of this land—as well as the history of their displacement, survival, and continued relationship with the place we all know and love as Dover—is a powerful expression of respect, collaboration, reconciliation, and togetherness. It recognizes the continuity of people who have loved and cared for Dover's landscape over time, expressing support and respect for our Indigenous neighbors. Such a message of gratitude and respect should not be divisive or controversial. Such a message is also not without precedent. I urge Dover to follow the growing number of cities throughout the United States that have already successfully adopted such a resolution, including [Spokane](#), [Ashland](#), [Denver](#), and [Tempe](#), all without the legal ramifications that our resolution's opponents fear.

Last summer, I was so proud of Dover for creating its Committee for Racial Equity and Inclusion, and I continue to wholly stand by the city's affirmation of its commitment to "eliminating systemic racism and building a stronger community that is safe and welcoming for all people." Creating a committee is not enough, though. The City has a responsibility to prove its commitment through sustained action—beginning with good-faith consideration of the recommendations of the committee it so rightfully created.

I regret that I will not be able to attend tomorrow evening's Citizen's Forum on the matter, but I would like to register in writing my emphatic support for the land acknowledgment statement resolution, and urge all members of the City Council to follow through in their spoken and written commitments to equity and inclusion in Dover.

Respectfully,
Jordan Schmolka